# Efficacy of single and double doses of albendazole and mebendazole alone in combination in the treatment of Trichuris trichiura in school-age children in Uganda

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# EFFICACY OF SINGLE AND DOUBLE DOSES OF ALBENDAZOLE AND MEBENDAZOLE ALONE AND IN COMBINATION IN THE TREATMENT OF *TRICHURIS TRICHIURA* IN SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN IN UGANDA

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A randomized clinical trial was conducted in Kabale district, south western Uganda to compare the efficacy of a single and a double dose of a combination of albendazole 400 mg (ALB) and mebendazole 500 mg (MBD) with single and double doses of each drug given alone in the treatment of *Trichuris trichiura*. Six hundred and eleven *T. trichiura* infected pupils were randomized to six treatment groups. Three groups received either a single dose of ALB, MBD or the combination (ALB+MBD). The other three groups received either a double dose of ALB (ALB-ALB), MBD (MBD-MBD) or the combination (ALB+MBD-ALB+MBD). All double doses were given eight hours apart. Children were followed-up weekly for a month and then six months post treatment. At day 7, the proportion of children infected and geometric mean intensity were significantly lower in the two combination groups than in all other treatment groups ($P< 0.001$). At day 14 to 28, the prevalence and intensity of all treatment groups increased, but was still significantly lower ($P<0.001$) in the two combination groups compared to the other groups. In conclusion, the combination of ALB and MBD was better than a single or double dose of each drug given alone, but there was no difference between the effect of the single and double dose of the combination. All the tested regiments of ALB and MBD have, however, low efficacy against *T. trichiura* in Uganda.